



**RISE**  
**MZANSI**

**OUR PLAN TO MAKE  
YOUR MUNICIPALITY WORK**



**RISEMZANSI.ORG**

**WE NEED NEW LEADERS**

**SOUTH AFRICANS****DESERVE BETTER**

## Introduction

After years of careful mismanagement and methodically executed corruption, most municipalities have fallen into different levels of dysfunction, including metros where tens of millions of South Africans live. Municipalities directly affect the lives of all South Africans and their collective failure to deliver even basic services now amounts to an assault on the dignity of South Africans.

This crisis is man made, and this election provides an opportunity to put an end to the growing sense of despair experienced by millions of families unable to cushion themselves from municipal failure and a nationally high cost of living. Change will begin by electing the right people to Council.

The high levels of unemployment are significantly driven by municipal level dysfunction which remains an obstacle for small to large businesses that have to use their own resources to subsidise municipal failure.

Fixing local government attracts investment, lowers business costs and supports small local enterprises. Although our plan is fundamentally about service delivery, it is consistently high municipal performance that attracts investment that produces sustainable jobs.



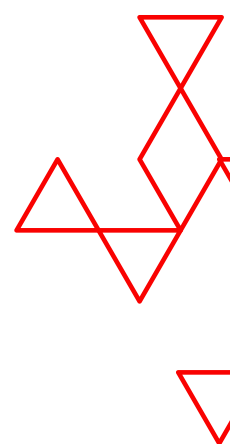
## **WE NEED NEW LEADERS**

The November election is a chance to elect leaders who care about every family and community, their struggles, their hopes and aspirations. Rise Mzansi has selected candidates who represent the diversity of South Africa in every way. They are racially and gender diverse, and their work or leadership experience spans all spheres of South African life

### **Our councillor candidates are:**

- Ethical and capable
- Rooted in their communities.
- Committed to rooting out corruption.
- Going to drive the plan we set out in this document, a plan to build stronger, effective municipal authorities that serve the people's needs.

This election is about who is fit to turn around municipalities that are in political dysfunction and administrative ruin. There will be little to no chance of recovery, or survival if we have five more years of the same whether it is in the metros or smaller municipalities.



Rise Mzansi has selected councillors who understand the responsibilities of governing in a coalition environment where collaborating with other parties is critical. These are leaders who will negotiate coalition agreements on the basis of clear municipal turnaround and service delivery programs, not positions for personal benefit.

Rise Mzansi in Council will make the critical difference because we have a track record of handling big jobs. We do not enter government to occupy seats. We enter it to protect public funds and deliver outcomes for the people.

We have the new leaders. Our candidate list is well rounded: young but experienced, combining education and professional skill with community-level experience. Our candidates bring bold, progressive and practical ideas and the energy to implement them. They are committed to every family and community, and they represent South Africa's diversity and its future.



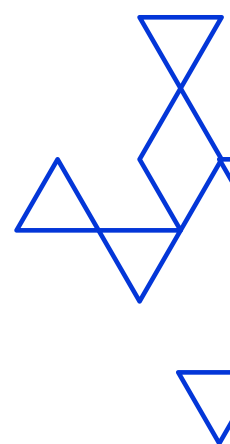
## **THE CUSTODIAN OF CLEAN, PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT**

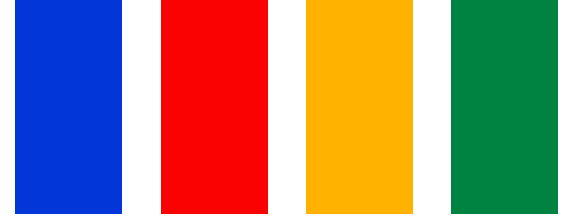
Political principles matter. Although we understand the deep level of frustration people feel at performative politics, we believe it is important to always lay out key political principles that demonstrate our political and policy orientation.

We are proud social democrats who believe in a strong, capable and ethical state with the technical capability to run administrative systems, develop policies for the future and facilitate sustained economic and jobs growth.

### **Therefore our governing principles are:**

- Eradicating corruption is central and non-negotiable. Amasela Out!
- We will build a professional state that owns and operates critical services. We will not privatise state assets or hollow out state professional capacity.
- We will work with businesses, large and small, formal and informal to reduce municipal red tape and poor services so entrepreneurs can create jobs.



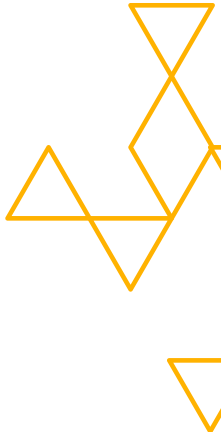


- We will insource workers who permanently service municipalities and pay them fair wages. Outsource contracts will not be renewed.
- We will drive transformation without extraction and corruption.
- We will uplift economically vulnerable residents, including students, by reducing household costs, funding economic development programmes and delivering basic services.
- We will insist on municipal policies that distribute resources equitably.

## **RISE MZANSI'S PLAN**

This plan is more than a manifesto. It is the foundation of a public coalition contract. Whoever sits at the table with us will be asked to agree to the commitments in this plan, with measurable milestones attached. Rise Mzansi will hold its partners to those commitments, and the public will be able to hold all of us to them.

### **The plan rests on six commitments:**

- Reliable Infrastructure
  - Dignity in Every Ward
  - Safe Streets
  - Clean Governance
  - Spatial Justice
  - A Living City
- 
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Underpinning all six is a government that must be structured to deliver and be held to account. This needs capable councillors and mature heads around the coalition table.

### **a. Infrastructure Reliability**

Municipal dysfunction has the same persistent symptoms that result from a failure to get the basics right: billing, refuse collection, water, electricity, roads and the enforcement of by-laws.

Residents pay their rates and then pay again for private security, JoJo tanks, boreholes, generators and solar systems.

## **We have a plan to fix this and it starts with the following:**

- Remove the thieves in the administration. Municipal capture and corruption are why money meant for infrastructure is not spent on infrastructure
- Employ highly capable professionals. A professional municipality that owns and operates its services needs engineers, technicians and managers who are hired on competence, not connections, and given the political cover they need to do their jobs.
- Fix procurement. Technology and strict internal controls will ensure procurement rules are followed to the letter, focused on delivering the infrastructure outcomes Johannesburg's residents deserve.
- Tight contract and project management will prevent overpayments for shoddy work, or work not done at all.

This needs political will, which is why it is important in this election to vote in new leaders.

## **b. Water**

Water is life and accordingly access to reliable, safe and clean water is our priority. Although South Africa faces a R400bn water infrastructure backlog, it is also true that the state of municipal water infrastructure is old, has fallen into disrepair and under siege from criminal elements. Water losses can be up to 50% or more in some municipalities.

### **We will:**

- Deliver a comprehensive Water Master Plan within the first 100 days, covering upgrade, maintenance and rapid repair.
- Modernise sewer pipes and manholes, with the target of zero blockages and zero spillovers into communities and rivers.
- Set response-time standards for burst pipes measured in hours rather than weeks, and publish performance against them.
- Prioritise historically neglected areas, where dry taps are a lived reality.
- Reduce water losses through smart detection technology with mandated turnaround times

### **c. Electricity**

- Municipal failure with electricity has two major symptoms, and those are failure to pay Eskom on time while billing residents, and poor maintenance and security in the face of neglect and vandalism.

#### **We will:**

- Treat cable theft and substation vandalism as economic sabotage, not petty crime. This means high-tech infrastructure monitoring, dedicated enforcement capacity and joint operations with SAPS.
- Open a direct dialogue with Eskom on areas they serve, since their residents are Johannesburg residents regardless of who supplies them.
- Collect electricity revenue consistently, underpinned by accurate billing.

### **d. Waste**

Refuse collection must be reliable first. Beyond reliability, we will formalise and support waste pickers, expand buy-back centres, run source-separation education campaigns and speed up licensing for waste-sector entrepreneurs.

## **e. Roads**

We will run a systematic campaign on potholes, synchronised and secured traffic lights, and working streetlights. For all new infrastructure, we will plan for a design life of 80 to 100 years rather than the next budget cycle.

## **f. Funding for Repair and Renewal**

The infrastructure backlog cannot be closed from the rates account alone. We will focus spending on repairing and renewing existing infrastructure, ring-fence renewal funding so that it cannot be raided for other purposes, and explore innovative funding models, including partnerships with development finance institutions and performance-linked financing. These will be structured so that critical assets remain publicly owned and operated.

## **g. Billing**

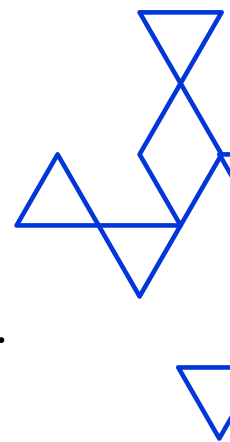
Residents cannot be asked to pay for what they do not use. We will fix the billing system with technology and data integrity controls, and pair it with debt-reduction incentives, so that households with arrears have a credible route back to a clean slate, and a culture of paying for services can be rebuilt on trust.

**Therefore our coalition contract will include:**

- No privatisation of critical state assets;
- A Water Master Plan within 100 days of formation of government;
- Published service-level standards for water, power, waste and roads, reported monthly at ward level;
- A corrected billing system with a debt-reduction incentive scheme in the first budget.



## DIGNITY IN EVERY WARD



Our towns and cities are still shaped by the architects of apartheid. The quality of a resident's life is decided by their Region and their income. We reject that. A resident of Diepsloot is owed the same baseline of reliability and dignity as a resident of Sandton.

Dignity in Every Ward means a Baseline Service Guarantee applied across the whole city.

### We will:

- Define, in plain language, the minimum standard every ward can expect for water, power, refuse, roads, streetlights and by-law enforcement.
- Publish a ward-by-ward scorecard against that standard, updated regularly and available to every resident.
- Weight capital spending towards the areas with the largest backlogs, so that the baseline is reached everywhere before showpiece projects are added.
- Provide Dignity Service Kits (dedicated water, sewer and metered electricity connections) for backyard rooms, informal settlements and the households that make up the largest housing provider in the city.
- Adopt gender-conscious budgeting, so that spending on lighting, transport, sanitation and safety is tested against its effect on women and girls, and on the economically vulnerable.

- Provide debt-forgiveness incentives for low- and middle-income households, so that the cost of past arrears does not lock families out of services.
- Require every councillor and ward office to report publicly on delivery against the baseline.

### **What our coalition contract will include:**

- Adoption of the Baseline Service Guarantee and gender-conscious budgeting in the first budget.
- Ward-level reporting for every ward within the first year.

## **SAFE STREETS**

Crime is tearing at the soul of our city and violence has become normalised. Women and LGBTQIA+ residents live under an epidemic of gender-based violence that restricts their freedom of movement. Organised criminal groups strip infrastructure that residents have paid for. Everyone has the right to be free from violence, and our priority is to restore the rule of law.

We are clear about what a municipality can and cannot do. SAPS is the primary agency for preventing, combating and investigating crime. In the metros, the metro police departments such as the JMPD are municipal agencies whose mandate is traffic policing, by-law enforcement and localised crime prevention.

Our approach is to get the basics right before expanding mandates: visible, data-driven policing, with the metro police departments being made excellent at what they were created to do – which is crime prevention and by-law enforcement.



## Our plan is built on four interventions, consistent with Rise Mzansi's national "Freedom from Fear" approach:

- **Modernise and digitalise.** We cannot fight 2026 criminals with 1994 systems. We will move to evidence-based policing, using data to deploy metro police resources to the hot-spots where crime and violations occur, instead of relying on roadblocks.
- **Remove illegal guns and implement a gun safety storage campaign to prevent theft.** An estimated two million illegal firearms are in circulation. We will advocate for local firearms amnesties and an anonymous rewards system for tip-offs, and we will demand accountability, including dismissal, for the loss of any state-issued firearm through negligence.
- **Partner with business and communities.** We will strengthen Business Against Crime, rebuild Community Policing Forums with enhanced budgets, and negotiate a co-governance arrangement with organised business for safe communities.
- **Enforce the by-laws, with no exceptions.** Grime and crime are two sides of the same coin. A municipality, town or city that looks lawless becomes lawless. We will reclaim hijacked buildings, deal with illegal dumping and illegal advertising, enforce building regulations, and treat infrastructure sabotage with the seriousness it deserves.

Every ward must have a dedicated enforcement presence that fits its safety needs, and metro police departments will work with SAPS on a joint programme so that every Region is resourced correctly. We are against illegal immigration, and we will work with law enforcement to root out criminality of every form. We support legal immigration.

### **What our coalition contract will include:**

- A crime reduction agreement and plan agreed to with SAPS within the first 100 days;
- A published hijacked-buildings register with a reclamation and conversion programme;
- A zero-tolerance protocol for political collusion with criminal networks.

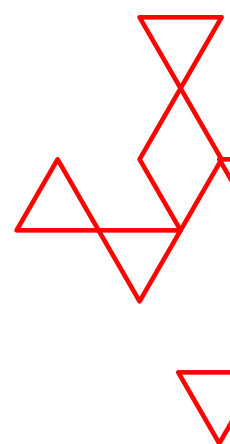


## CLEAN GOVERNANCE

The most important thing we can do to make metros like Johannesburg deliver is to change how they are run. For example, CoJ has a sprawling web of municipal-owned entities: City Power, Joburg Water, Pikitup, the Johannesburg Road Agency, the Joburg Property Company and the Metro Trading Company.

They were created on the theory that corporatising services would make them more efficient. Instead, they have become independent fiefdoms. They shield political deployees from accountability, pay executive salaries and board fees at the expense of delivery, and hide behind corporate governance whenever Council exercises oversight.

When a suburb has no power, the councillor is told to ask City Power. When sewage runs down a street, the Mayor waits for a report from Joburg Water. When a road is dug up to fix a pipe, one entity leaves the hole open because reinstatement belongs to another. Residents cannot tell who is responsible.



Rise Mzansi will responsibly collapse these entities into a single, streamlined infrastructure and service delivery body directly accountable to Council through Executive Directors and the City Manager. This is the opposite of privatisation: it is building a professional state that owns and operates its critical services. It delivers three things:

- **No middlemen.** We will eliminate duplicate marketing, HR, payroll and board structures, and redirect those millions to fixing pipes, laying tar and securing substations.
- **Direct accountability.** The head of water services will report to the City Manager and the Mayoral Committee, with no corporate board and no “shareholder representative” buffer. Where services are not delivered, officials can be removed.
- **One budget.** A single, coherent capital budget means that water and roads are planned together and not negotiated like rival entities.
- **This is not a promise of an overnight shutdown.** Collapsing entities that employ thousands and manage billions in assets must be done systematically, legally and with service continuity protected at every step. We will work with unions and technical experts. Front-line workers are not the problem, and their jobs will be protected. The target is the executive layer.

**We do not tolerate corruption. Alongside structural reform, we commit to:**

- Re-vetting all agency board members and senior officials, with lifestyle audits of all senior City and City-company officials within one year, and a review of all key appointments for skills and suitability.
- Cleaning the procurement system, using technology and strict internal controls, with a single, streamlined supply-chain process.
- A public register of all City contracts above R1 million, updated monthly.
- Proactively gathering evidence and handing it to law enforcement, with criminal charges to follow. Where we find wrongdoing, we will not simply dismiss people and move on.

Our commitment is that the “gangsters in suits” will not capture the soul of Joburg.

**What our coalition contract will include:**

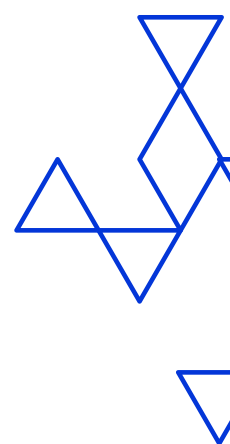
- A legislated, time-bound transition plan to consolidate the entities within the first year;
- Publication of the R1-million contract register from the first month;
- Re-vetting of boards and senior officials and completion of lifestyle audits within twelve months;
- Referral of evidence of wrongdoing to law enforcement as a standing obligation.



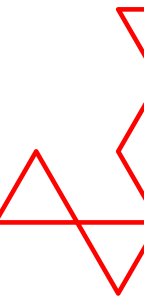
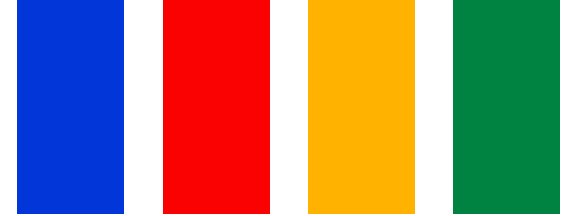
## SPATIAL JUSTICE

Families spend up to 40% of their income on fragmented, unsafe and disconnected transport. That is not development. It is the continuing cost of apartheid spatial planning.

Transport and housing are two sides of the same problem, and we must solve them together. For example, an initiative such as Jozi On The Move will be a clean, safe, affordable and integrated public transport system where a single card gets you to your destination. Our commitment is to five principles:



1. **One card, one ticket.** A single digital payment card, the Jozi One-Pass, will work across Rea Vaya and Metrobus and be progressively integrated with minibus taxi associations.
2. **Affordability as the test.** Fares will be set so that commuting does not consume a crippling share of a working household's income. Pricing will be decided after independent costing and public consultation, and published in the first budget.
3. **Fair concessions.** Students and recipients of social relief grants will travel free or at heavily subsidised rates, so that the cost of getting to school, work or opportunity is not a barrier.

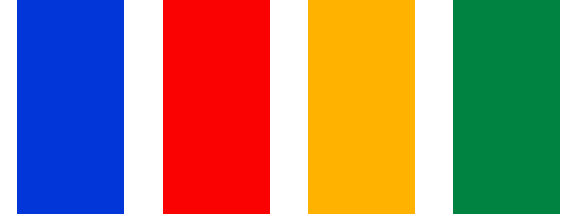


4. **Clean, safe and reliable.** Well-lit transport nodes, patrolled routes and dependable schedules, including late at night, so that a worker finishing a shift in Rosebank at midnight can tap her card, board a clean and safe bus, and be home in twenty minutes.

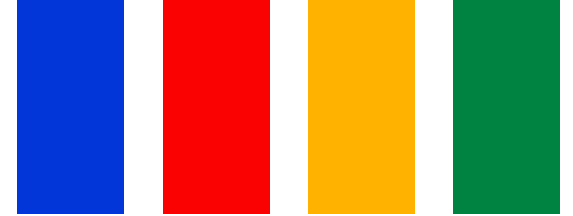
5. **Partnership, not confrontation, with the taxi industry.** We will pursue a subsidy-for-compliance model. Associations that meet high standards for vehicle safety, driver training and reliable scheduling will see their commuters become eligible for City-funded fare subsidies.

We will develop critical transport and economic corridors that link city nodes and integrate it municipality-wide.

- **Integrated Cities:** live where you work. Our housing strategy is Work here. Live here. Belong here. It is founded on the following principles:
- **Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning.** A new by-law will require major developers in high-growth hubs such as Sandton, Rosebank, Midrand and Waterfall to include affordable rental units, with incomes integrated within mixed developments, so that cleaners, baristas and security guards can live near where they work.

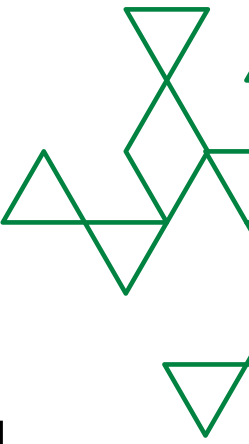


- **Convert buildings, don't just clear them.** We will convert hundreds of hijacked, abandoned or under-used buildings into mixed-use, rent-controlled housing, using Right-to-Develop arrangements and long-term leases with non-profit housing organisations.
- **Audit and publish public land.** We will list every parcel of publicly owned land, set long-term plans to build safe communities (not just houses), and accelerate land acquisition and release for well-located, affordable housing.
- **Support the backyard market** through the Backyarder Support Scheme and Dignity Service Kits.
- **Stop approving the next mega-mall by default.** Development approvals will take account of the effect on local high streets and township and suburban small business.
- **Proposals for students and young professionals,** who carry the crushing weight of the cost-of-living crisis, covering transport, well-located rental housing and access to the economy.
- **What our coalition contract will include:**
- **Adoption of a fare policy** built on the five principles above in the first budget, with a published launch timeline for the Jozi One-Pass;
- **The Inclusionary Zoning by-law** within the first year; and
- **A published public land audit** within six months.



## **A LIVING CITY**

The street-level economy is how millions of South Africans put food on the table: street traders, spaza owners, backyard mechanics, hairdressers and micro-entrepreneurs. They pay school fees, keep money circulating in townships and inner-city neighbourhoods, and create jobs where the state and big business have left a gap.

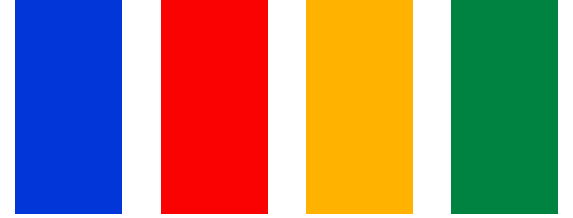


Today they are treated as targets. Officials harass them and confiscate stock, and criminal elements extract rent, bribes and protection money in the legal grey area the has authorities have left them in.

Rise Mzansi believes that trading to put food on the table is not a crime. We can create jobs, and we begin by doing the basics: fighting corruption, cleaning the streets and fighting criminality.

### **We will:**

- **End arbitrary harassment and stock confiscation** by directive from the first day in office. Law enforcement will be pointed at violent criminals, syndicates and extortionists, not at honest people earning a living.
- **Build the infrastructure that lets traders thrive:** clean, managed trading spaces integrated into transport hubs and economic zones, with water, sanitation and reliable waste collection.



- **Support entrepreneurs through efficient bureaucracy,** affordable services and support programmes, treating formalisation as a spectrum to be supported rather than a barrier to be enforced.
- **Run fair and transparent procurement** that prioritises local and small and medium businesses, and pay them on time. For a small business, a late payment can be fatal.
- **Develop economic corridors, township economies and the night economy,** with better lighting, patrols and transport so that late-night trading and leisure are safe in the CBD and township hubs.
- **Protect the ecosystem.** Big business should operate in its lane, and the City will use planning and licensing to stop large chains from crowding out local spaza shops.
- **Regularise the taxi industry** through the subsidy-for-compliance model described above.

**Arts is not just about pleasure, leisure and entertainment.** It is an industry. Working with artists organisations, large entertainment promoters, provincial and national government, we will develop local creative arts strategies to drive entrepreneurship and job creation, and insist on municipal procurement policies that mandate the procurement of local artists and support industry businesses.

**What our coalition contract will include:**

- An immediate directive ending arbitrary harassment and confiscation of street traders;
- A prompt-payment standard for suppliers, with local and small-business procurement targets;
- Managed trading spaces at identified transport hubs within the first year; and
- A calendar of flagship cultural and sporting events, with a bid strategy for national and international events, in the first term. We will use these large events to anchor participation for local artists and creative economy service providers/



## ANCHORING COALLITIONS

Coalitions should not be feared. Coalitions work when they are founded on the quality, credibility and capability of the people at the table, and a binding, public agreement about what the coalition must do.

### **Rise Mzansi will approach coalition negotiations on the same principles it championed nationally in 2024:**

- Upholding the Constitution and the rule of law. Governance must be transparent, accountable and constitutionally aligned.
- Protecting key institutions. The independence of municipal and state bodies must be safeguarded.
- Uninterrupted public services. Water, electricity, waste removal and public safety must never be compromised by disputes in Council.
- We will also insist that who occupies executive positions (Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Speaker, Chief Whip or MMC) depends on capability, credibility and character as well as on raw numbers.

The commitments we make in this plan will be translated into a public coalition agreement with defined milestones, reporting obligations and consequences for non-delivery. Partners will sign it before taking office. The more votes Rise Mzansi receives, the stronger our power to insist on a stable, honest and high-performing government.

